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FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

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1894.

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BOSTON :  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.  
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MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

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HENRY S. NOURSE, Lancaster,	. . . .	term expires 1898.
Miss E. P. SOHIER, <i>Secretary</i> , Beverly,	. . . .	term expires 1897.
Miss ANNA E. TICKNOR, Boston,	. . . .	term expires 1896.
C. B. TILLINGHAST, <i>Chairman</i> , Boston,	. . . .	term expires 1895.
SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, Worcester,	. . . .	term expires 1894.



## REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives :*

In accordance with the provisions of section 2 of chapter 347 of the Acts of 1890, the Free Public Library Commission herewith submits its fourth report. It includes a statement of the results accomplished during the year 1893.

### THE COMMISSION.

The Hon. Henry S. Nourse, whose term expired Oct. 22, 1893, has been reappointed by the Governor for the full term of five years, and the original organization of the Commission remains unchanged. Regular meetings have been held at the State House once each month during the year.

### FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ESTABLISHED IN 1893.

Information has been received that seven towns have accepted the provisions of chapter 347 of the Acts of 1890 during the year, and under this law the following towns have been supplied with books during the year : —

Berkley,	Hardwick,	Huntington,
Chelmsford,	Hawley,	Wellfleet.
Deerfield,	Heath,	

The towns of Huntington, Hawley and Hardwick accepted the law in 1892, but did not officially notify the Commission that they had fully completed the necessary details until early in 1893. The towns of Dover and Granville have accepted the law, but have not yet been supplied with books, for the reason that in Dover a suitable room has not been provided for the library, and an informality in the method of choosing trustees remains to be remedied at the next town meeting in Granville.

Free public libraries which have no official connection with the towns have been established in Fairhaven and West Tisbury.

It thus appears that, including the fifty-two towns recorded in 1891 and 1892, the Commission has aided in establishing sixty free public libraries under this law, and two others will soon be added to the list.

#### TOWNS CLASSIFIED AS TO LIBRARIES.

The following classification of the towns, revised to date, shows the free library facilities they now enjoy :—

##### CLASS 1.

*Towns which have libraries owned and controlled by the town, and free for circulation to all the people.*

Abington,	Burlington,	Fitchburg,
Adams,	Cambridge,	Foxborough,
Agawam,	Canton,	Framingham,
Alford,	Carlisle,	Freetown,
Andover,	Charlemont,	Gill,
Arlington,	Charlton,	Goshen,
Ashburnham,	Chatham,	Gosnold,
Ashby,	Chelmsford,	Granby,
Ashland,	Chelsea,	Greenfield,
Athol,	Chesterfield,	Greenwich,
Attleborough,	Chicopee,	Groton,
Auburn,	Chilmark,	Groveland,
Avon,	Clinton,	Halifax,
Ayer,	Cohasset,	Hamilton,
Belmont,	Colrain,	Hampden,
Berkley,	Dalton,	Hanover,
Berlin,	Dana,	Hardwick,
Beverly,	Dedham,	Harvard,
Blackstone,	Deerfield,	Hatfield,
Blandford,	Douglas,	Hawley,
Bolton,	Dunstable,	Heath,
Boston,	East Bridgewater,	Holbrook,
Bourne,	Eastham,	Holden,
Boxborough,	Edgartown,	Holland,
Boylston,	Egremont,	Holliston,
Bridgewater,	Erving,	Hopedale,
Brimfield,	Essex,	Hubbardston,
Brockton,	Everett,	Hudson,
Brookfield,	Fall River,	Hull,
Brookline,	Falmouth,	Huntington,



Hyde Park,	North Attleborough,	Stoneham,
Lancaster,	Northborough,	Stoughton,
Lanesborough,	North Brookfield,	Sturbridge,
Leicester,	Northfield,	Sudbury,
Leominster,	North Reading,	Sunderland,
Leverett,	Norwood,	Sutton,
Leyden,	Oakham,	Swampscott,
Lowell,	Orange,	Taunton,
Ludlow,	Orleans,	Templeton,
Lunenburg,	Otis,	Tewksbury,
Lynn,	Oxford,	Tolland,
Lynnfield,	Paxton,	Topsfield,
Manchester,	Peabody,	Townsend,
Mansfield,	Pelham,	Tyngsborough,
Marblehead,	Pepperell,	Tyringham,
Marlborough,	Peru,	Upton,
Mashpee,	Phillipston,	Uxbridge,
Mattapoisett,	Plainfield,	Wakefield,
Maynard,	Plymouth,	Walpole,
Medfield,	Plympton,	Waltham,
Medford,	Prescott,	Warwick,
Medway,	Provincetown,	Watertown,
Melrose,	Quincy,	Wayland,
Mendon,	Reading,	Webster,
Merrimac,	Revere,	Wellfleet,
Middleborough,	Richmond,	Wenham,
Middlefield,	Rochester,	Westborough,
Middleton,	Rockland,	West Boylston,
Milford,	Rockport,	West Bridgewater,
Millbury,	Rowe,	West Brookfield,
Millis,	Rowley,	Westford,
Milton,	Royalston,	Westminster,
Montague,	Rutland,	Weston,
Monterey,	Sandwich,	Westport,
Mount Washington,	Saugus,	West Springfield,
Nahant,	Savoy,	West Stockbridge,
Natick,	Sharon,	Weymouth,
Needham,	Sheffield,	Whately,
New Ashford,	Shelburne,	Whitman,
New Bedford,	Sherborn,	Wilbraham,
New Braintree,	Shirley,	Williamstown,
Newburyport,	Shrewsbury,	Wilmington,
New Salem,	Somerville,	Winchendon,
Newton,	Southborough,	Winchester,
Norfolk,	Southbridge,	Windsor,
North Adams,	Southwick,	Winthrop,
Northampton,	Spencer,	Worcester,
North Andover,	Sterling,	Wrentham. — 234.

## CLASS 2.

*Towns which have free libraries in which the town has some representation in the management.*

Acton,	Easthampton,	Lincoln,
Amesbury,	Enfield,	Littleton,
Barre,	Franklin,	Malden,
Bedford,	Georgetown,	Norton,
Belchertown,	Grafton,	Petersham,
Bernardston,	Haverhill,	Randolph,
Bradford,	Hingham,	Salem,
Braintree,	Holyoke,	Springfield,
Concord,	Lawrence,	Warren,
Cummington,	Lexington,	Woburn. — 31.
Danvers,		

## CLASS 3.

*Towns in which there are libraries to which the town appropriates money, but is not represented in the management.*

Amherst,	Lee,	Princeton,
Ashfield,	Lenox,	Southampton,
Boxford,	Monson,	Stockbridge,
Cottage City,	Northbridge,	Wellesley,
Duxbury,	Palmer,	Westfield,
Gardner,	Pembroke,	Westhampton,
Great Barrington,	Pittsfield,	Worthington. — 22.
Hinsdale,		

## CLASS 4.

*Towns in which there are free libraries which have no connection with the town.*

Barnstable,	Harwich,	Rehoboth,
Becket,	Hopkinton,	Scituate,
Billerica,	Ipswich,	Ware,
Buckland,	Kingston,	Wareham,
Easton,	Marion,	West Tisbury,
Fairhaven,	Methuen,	Yarmouth. — 20
Gloucester,	Raynham,	

## CLASS 5.

*Towns which have libraries owned by the town, but which charge a fee.*  
Conway. — 1.

## CLASS 6.

*Towns having no free library.*

Acushnet,	Chester,	Dover,
Bellingham,	Clarksburg,	Dracut,
Brewster,	Dartmouth,	Dudley,
Carver,	Dennis,	Florida,
Cheshire,	Dighton,	Gay Head,

Granville,	Newbury,	Stow,
Hadley,	New Marlborough,	Swansea,
Hancock,	Norwell,	Tisbury,
Hanson,	Russell,	Truro,
Lakeville,	Salisbury,	Wales,
Longmeadow,	Sandisfield,	Washington,
Marshfield,	Seekonk,	Wendell,
Monroe,	Shutesbury,	West Newbury,
Montgomery,	Somerset,	Williamsburg. — 44.
Nantucket,	South Hadley,	

It appears from the above classification that of the 352 towns and cities in the State, 234 contain free public libraries that are entirely under municipal control; 31 contain libraries the use of which is entirely free, and in the management of which the municipality is in some form represented; 22 contain libraries to which the town or city appropriates money, but over which it has no control. Most of these libraries are free for circulation, but a few are free only for reference. Twenty towns contain free public libraries that are supported entirely by private benefaction, and with which the municipality has no official connection; one has a library which is owned and controlled by the town, but is not free, a small fee being charged the citizens for the use of the books; and 44 towns have no public library, though in a few of this class small association libraries exist.

All the towns in the State, except those enumerated in Class 1, seem to be entitled to the benefit of the State appropriation, if they will establish free town libraries under full municipal control.

#### AID TO TOWNS HAVING LIBRARIES.

Under the law of 1892, which authorized the Commission to furnish \$100 worth of books to any town whose valuation does not exceed \$600,000 which maintained a free library before the law of 1890 went into effect, books have been supplied to nineteen towns, as follows: —

Ashby,	Lanesborough,	Sunderland,
Auburn,	Middlefield,	Tyngsborough,
Bolton,	New Braintree,	Warwick,
Dunstable,	New Salem,	Wenham,
Eastham,	Orleans,	Whately. — 19.
Erving,	Rochester,	
Gill,	Rutland,	



The following towns are still entitled to the benefit of this law : —

Boylston,	Halifax,	North Reading,
Brimfield,	Mendon,	Paxton,
Burlington,	Middleton,	Phillipston,
Carlisle,	Millis,	Rowe,
Chesterfield,	Norfolk,	Royalston. — 15.

#### LIBRARY MAP.

Accompanying this report is a reduced copy of the map prepared for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago, showing at a glance which of the towns in the State have free public libraries and the number of volumes in each library at the beginning of the year 1893, when the map was prepared. It must be borne in mind that in the making of this map, and in all the statistics prepared or published by this Commission, reference is only made to libraries in which all the people have rights and privileges without the payment of any fee.

#### SITES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS.

The Commission recommends the passage of a law whereby the superiority or dominion of the sovereign power over all the property within the State, by which it is entitled to appropriate, by constitutional agency, any part necessary to the public good, shall be extended so that towns and cities may take land for building sites for free public libraries in the same manner that land may be taken under existing laws for the purposes of school buildings.

#### LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS.

Town libraries have been urged by the Free Public Library Commission to make as exhaustive collections as possible of matter of local historical or geographical interest. They have been advised to save carefully copies of all printed reports and other documents issued by the municipalities, histories and other books relating to the towns, pamphlets of local interest, manuscripts containing biographical or historical material regarding persons, houses or localities, maps and plans, and everything regarding or representing the literary, scientific or other work of present or former residents.



The Commission now suggests that an excellent way of bringing about the close connection between libraries and schools, which is generally conceded to be desirable, would be to utilize the collections, when made, in promoting a spirit of investigation among teachers and scholars, and awakening an interest in history. The teacher of a school would have, in the first place, to become acquainted with the materials at command. She should then excite an interest by describing some exciting or pleasant incident in the history of the town or by reading some well-written passage from a pamphlet, book, or manuscript. Chapters in local history might sometimes be used in the place of reading-books by pupils, in class work. When interest has been aroused set the children at work using material at hand, old newspapers, books, pamphlets, etc., to make investigations regarding things that have occurred in the place. Let them, when ready, give an account of the results of their inquiries, either by word of mouth or in the form of a written composition. Afterwards connect the doings of the towns in which the boys and girls live with those of neighboring or larger places and with the State and country. Places on the sea-coast could awaken interest in connection with foreign countries.

By studying, and making plans and maps, children may be excited to take a lively interest in the geography of the towns they live in, and by being led to see, by means of books used by themselves, or for them by teachers, and by excursions, the topographical and physical features of those towns, may have started in them the knowledge of the resources of the places and an interest in thinking about the connections of their parts, their relations to other towns and their facilities and prospects. By a judicious use of books from libraries, relating to local matters, important moral lessons may often be drawn in such a way as to become impressive to children and remain in their memories. Great good is done when a young person has become interested in making investigations. Let teachers, then, use library books in inciting pupils to make local and wider historical and geographical researches, and in this way try to start in them a taste for historical and other research and the habit of learning the meaning of the events of history and the actions of great men.

## GIFTS AND NEW BUILDINGS.

The following gifts to libraries have come to the notice of the Commission during the year : —

AMHERST. A new library building was dedicated at North Amherst September 20. It is a wooden building thirty-six feet long and twenty-five feet wide, with a slate roof. It cost about \$2,500, the expense being partially defrayed by the following gifts: Mrs. Ellen E. Fisher, \$700; Rufus B. Kellogg Fund, \$150; Walter D. Cowles, \$150; town of Amherst, \$500; gifts from other sources, \$200.

AYER. The building erected by Mr. Frederick F. Ayer of New York for the public library of the town of Ayer has been completed, and will be open for use early in the year. It is built of Indiana limestone, sixty-three by forty feet, and has accommodations for twenty-five thousand volumes. The entire cost of the building and its fittings has been about fifty thousand dollars.

BARRE. The late Dr. Lucius T. Billings of Barre bequeathed \$1,000 to the Barre Library Association and also made the Association his residuary legatee.

BOSTON. Mr. W. C. Todd of Atkinson, N. H., has given the Boston Public Library \$50,000, to be so invested as to insure a permanent annual income of \$2,000, to be devoted to maintaining a newspaper reading room in which newspapers representing every large city in the world shall be kept on file.

CHARLEMONT. Mr. E. R. Goodnow of Charlemont gave \$8,000 to the town of Charlemont to build a town hall and library building, upon condition that the town should pay to him and his wife, as long as either should live, interest at the rate of five per cent. on the amount. The town accepted the offer and a neat building of brick with brown stone trimmings has been completed. The cost was about \$11,000, the balance having been raised by subscription.

DALTON. The Crane town hall and library building at Dalton was dedicated February 6. It is built of brick and Longmeadow stone, and is the gift of the members of the Crane family, who are natives of the town. It provides ample accommodation for the library and for the town business. Thomas G. Carson of Boston, formerly a paper manufacturer in the town, has given the library \$1,000 for the purchase of books.

FAIRHAVEN. Mr. Henry H. Rogers has presented to the town of Fairhaven one of the finest library buildings in the State, which



was dedicated January 30 as a memorial to his daughter, Miss Millicent Rogers, who died at Fairhaven in 1890. The structure is of granite; the design is very artistic and it is finished and furnished in the best taste. It cost about \$75,000 and will accommodate about sixteen thousand volumes. The donor has provided a fund of \$100,000, which is held in trust by the State to provide for the expense of the library in perpetuity.

**GARDNER.** Mrs. Alvin M. Greenwood has, in addition to her previous large gifts, presented \$1,000 for the purchase of new books to the Levi Heywood Memorial Library at Gardner.

**GLOUCESTER.** The contest over the will of the late Samuel E. Sawyer having been settled, the library will receive the large bequest intended for it, amounting to about \$120,000.

**GROTON.** The new public library building at Groton was dedicated May 18. It is built of brick, in the colonial style, and cost \$27,000, of which \$12,000 was the gift of Mrs. Charlotte Langdon Sibley, the widow of John Langdon Sibley, for many years librarian of Harvard College. It has capacity for about twenty-five thousand volumes.

**HAMPDEN.** The late Lucetta Howlett left by will a sum which is to be placed at interest until it shall amount to \$10,000, when it is to be used for the erection of a library building.

**HANSON.** The Wampotuck Library Association dedicated a new library building, which cost \$6,000, at South Hanson, November 21.

**HARDWICK.** The late Dr. Lucius F. Billings of Barre bequeathed \$1,000 to the town of Hardwick for a public library fund.

**HAVERHILL.** The late Hon. James H. Carleton left by his will \$15,000 to the Haverhill public library.

**LEOMINSTER.** The late Hon. Alvah A. Burrage of Boston bequeathed \$5,000 to the Leominster public library.

**LYNN.** The will of Mrs. Elizabeth Shute gives \$100,000 to the city of Lynn for a new public library building, as a memorial to her husband, and makes the library the residuary legatee of her estate. The late E. H. Ashcroft of Lynn bequeathed \$1,000 to the library.

**MELROSE.** The late William Bailey of Melrose bequeathed two shares of his estate, which will be worth at least \$1,000 each, to the free public library at Melrose.

**NAHANT.** The town of Nahant is erecting a new building for its public library, and appropriated \$8,250 for the purchase of the lot and \$40,000 for the erection of the building.

**NEW BRAINTREE.** The new town hall, which was dedicated at New Braintree September 12, contains rooms for the accommodation of the library, with shelving for five thousand volumes.

NEWBURYPORT. Mr. William C. Todd, a native of Newburyport, who some time ago set apart \$7,500, the income to be used in the purchase of magazines, papers, etc., for the reading room of the public library of Newburyport, has signified his intention of increasing the amount to \$10,000 and paying the money over to the city, the income to be used as heretofore.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH. Mrs. John A. Tweedy and Edmund Ira Richards of New York and Miss Hattie T. Richards of North Attleborough have purchased the site and will erect a \$25,000 free public library building thereon, as a memorial to their parents, the late Edmund Ira and Lucy M. Richards.

ROCKPORT. The contested will of Mr. Samuel E. Sawyer having been declared valid, the Rockport public library will receive \$4,000.

ROWLEY. The late J. Henry Stickney of Baltimore bequeathed \$2,000 to the free public library of Rowley.

SALEM. The Hon. A. A. Low of Brooklyn, N. Y., presented \$500 to the Salem public library, to be invested in books. The late Dr. Henry Wheatland, for many years president of the Essex Institute, bequeathed to that institution his entire library as a reference library, and the sum of \$15,000, to be invested until a fund of \$25,000 is accumulated, when the income is to be used for the care and preservation and increase of the library.

SCITUATE. Mr. Silas Pierce has erected a building for the Association Library at North Scituate. It cost about \$5,000 and is erected as a memorial to Mrs. Pierce.

SOUTHWICK. The town has appropriated \$1,500 for a library building.

SPRINGFIELD. The late Horace Smith of Springfield bequeathed \$50,000 to the Springfield Library Association.

STOW. The Randall Memorial Library Building at Stow has been completed. It is constructed of brick, after a neat design, in which beauty and utility are combined, and cost about \$12,000. The balance of the gift of \$25,000 will be used to purchase the books and provide for the future needs of the library. The gift is made by Miss Belinda Lull Randall, from the estate of her brother, the late Dr. John Witt Randall. The sister carries out Dr. Randall's wish, though it was not contained in his will.

UXBRIDGE. The town has voted to accept the gift of a \$25,000 library building, which is to be built within two years by Mr. E. C. Thayer of Keene, N. H., in memory of his parents, and to be called the Thayer Memorial Library Building. Mr. Thayer also proposes to give the town \$5,000 in trust, the income to be used



for the purchase of books. Mr. Moses Taft bequeathed \$1,000 to the library.

WARWICK. Mrs. Mary J. Draper has increased the fund left by her husband to \$500, the income of which is to be devoted to the purchase of agricultural and biographical books.

WEST BROOKFIELD. The late J. Henry Stickney of Baltimore bequeathed \$4,500 to the public library at West Brookfield.

#### TOWNS WITHOUT LIBRARIES.

The forty-four towns that still are without free public libraries contain an aggregate population of 60,929, according to the census of 1890, or less than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. of the entire population. Thirty-six of them have a population of less than 2,000, and seventeen of them a population of less than 1,000 each. One town each is in Hampshire, Nantucket and Worcester counties, two each in Dukes, Middlesex and Norfolk, three each in Barnstable, Essex and Franklin, five in Plymouth, six in Bristol, seven in Berkshire and eight in Hampden.

Over a half million of dollars has been given by individuals for the purchase of books and the erection of library buildings in this Commonwealth during the past year.

The advice of the Commission has been sought by trustees and librarians upon the establishment of branch libraries and depositories, upon the most practicable methods of rendering the libraries serviceable to the schools and upon simple and economical methods of administration. The nature of the inquiries indicates the purpose of those who have the care of our free public libraries to so administer them that their privileges shall be most easily available to the largest number of the people.

C. B. TILLINGHAST,

*Chairman.*

ELIZABETH P. SOHIER,

*Secretary.*

HENRY S. NOURSE,

ANNA E. TICKNOR,

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN,

*Commissioners.*

The first of these is the fact that the British  
army was defeated at the Battle of the Clouds  
on September 22nd, 1781. This was a  
major disaster for the British, as it  
resulted in the loss of a large number of  
men and supplies. The second fact is that  
the British were forced to evacuate the  
city of York and retreat to the coast.

The third fact is that the British were  
forced to evacuate the city of York and  
retreat to the coast. This was a major  
disaster for the British, as it resulted in  
the loss of a large number of men and  
supplies. The fourth fact is that the  
British were forced to evacuate the city of  
York and retreat to the coast. This was a  
major disaster for the British, as it  
resulted in the loss of a large number of  
men and supplies.

The fifth fact is that the British were  
forced to evacuate the city of York and  
retreat to the coast. This was a major  
disaster for the British, as it resulted in  
the loss of a large number of men and  
supplies. The sixth fact is that the  
British were forced to evacuate the city of  
York and retreat to the coast. This was a  
major disaster for the British, as it  
resulted in the loss of a large number of  
men and supplies.

The seventh fact is that the British were  
forced to evacuate the city of York and  
retreat to the coast. This was a major  
disaster for the British, as it resulted in  
the loss of a large number of men and  
supplies. The eighth fact is that the  
British were forced to evacuate the city of  
York and retreat to the coast. This was a  
major disaster for the British, as it  
resulted in the loss of a large number of  
men and supplies.





